THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

HAROLD BURSON
JOHN S. CHASE
SONDRA G. MYERS
WALTER A. NETSCH
ALAN R. NOVAK
EDWARD D. STONE, JR.

CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

December 14, 1982

AM
10:00 CONVENE, 708 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C.

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Dates of next meetings: January 11, 1983
February 8, 1983

B. Approval of November 10, 1982 minutes of the Commission of Fine Arts.

C. Olympic Coin design hearings before House Subcommittee on Consumer Affairs and Coinage on December 1, 1982.

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II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS

A. CFA 14/DEC/82-1, Department of Interior, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, site plan designs.

B. CFA 14/DEC/82-2, Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation, flagpoles for Western Plaza.

C. CFA 14/DEC/82-3, District of Columbia Government, Department of Housing and Community Development, Redevelopment Land Agency, New Office Building, 4th and Virginia Avenue, S.W., additional facade studies, (ref: CFA 10/NOV/82-8).

D. District of Columbia Government, Department of Housing and Community Development

1. Shipstead-Luce Act

a. S.L. 83-18, 15th and New York Avenue, N.W., NS & T Bank, renovation and new scheme for addition.

* D. Report on the Smithsonian Quadrangle landscape design.

b. S.L. 83-21, 606 18th Street, N.W., Bacon House renovation.

c. Appendix 1.

2. Old Georgetown Act

a. O.G. 83-22, 1025 Thomas Jefferson Street, N.W., office/retail revised designs for previously approved project.

b. Appendix 2.

E. CFA 14/DEC/82-4, Department of the Army, Institute of Heraldry, Commander's Medal for Public Service.

F. CFA 14/DEC/82-5, Department of the Treasury, Bureau of the Mint, models for 1983 silver dollar commemorating 1984 Summer Olympics.

G. CFA 14/DEC/82-6, District of Columbia Government, Department of General Services, D.C. General Hospital addition.

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER THE SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
S.L. 82-94	2200 P Street, N.W. Gulf Oil Company	Gulf Oil

ACTION: Concept for canopy addition to service station approved, as shown on drawings dated 10 November 1982. Color samples, lighting details and working drawings shall be submitted for approval by Commission of Fine Arts prior to issuance of permit.

S.L. 83-01	300 D Street, N.W. WDC Associates	Design Center Sign

ACTION: Issue permit for first-floor entrance area signs. Do not issue permit for cornice level illuminated sign. Because of the proximity to the Capitol and the visibility from other parts of the city, a large internally illuminated sign in any location near the roof top of the building would not be appropriate.

S.L. 83-02	1425 H Street, N.W. John Gersteneelo	Southern Building

ACTION: Conceptual designs for renovation and additions to Southern Building are approved provided window treatment on top floor is changed from square single light sash to vertical double hung sash. Commission views the renovation of the building to be in the public interest as a long-range project consistent with the economic preservation of this historic structure. The proposed addition is also harmonious with the existing building.

S.L. 83-03	1501 Pennsylvania Ave.,N.W. American Security Bank	Roof terrace

ACTION: Concept of glass enclosure of roof terrace is approved subject to design detail refinement, material selection and approval of working drawings by the Commission of Fine Arts. Recommend additional study of corner mullions to avoid bunching. Appearance of structural framing should be de-emphasized.

S.L. 83-04	2500 Virginia Avenue, N.W. Interstate Savings & Loan	Install ATM

ACTION: Issue permit for new bronze-anodized aluminum automatic teller machine to be installed in existing glass curtain wall as shown on drawings received and dated 18 October 1982.

S.L. 83-06	1703 Tamarack Street, N.W. Renett & Czerny Neal	New garage

ACTION: Issue permit for new garage structure to be built into existing embankment as shown on drawings received and dated 18 October 1982. Any new brick or masonry construction should match existing dwelling.

S.L. 83-08	Canal and Ivy Street, S.E. Democratic Properties Corp.	New Democratic Headquarters Building

ACTION: No objection to concept of new office building. Submit working drawings and material samples for approval by Commission of Fine Arts prior to permit issuance.

S.L. 83-10	820 15th Street, N.W. GSA - Utilization Branch	Install one exterior building sign and one interior neon sign.

ACTION: Issue permit for flat black sign cabinet mounted just above granite facing. Text shall be cut out of opaque face.

S.L. 83-12	419 6th Street, N.W. Raymond C. Brophy, Inc.	Sign

ACTION: Issue permit for sign with all copy and logo to be white color. Yellow copy is not approved.

S.L. 83-12	1101 6th Street, S.W. Washington Drama Society, Inc.	Parking shelter for Arena Stage lot.

ACTION: Issue permit for parking lot attendant booth. Roof shall be dark brown or dark grey shingles and wood walls shall be dark brown stain.

S.L. 83-15	719 15th Street, N.W. NS&T Bank	Renovations to NS&T Bank

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for demolition work in conjunction with renovations and addition approved by the Commission of Fine Arts.

S.L. 83-16	450 5th Street, N.W. Marriott Corporation	"Roy Rogers" signs

ACTION: Issue permit.

S.L. 83-17	2200 P Street, N.W. Gulf Oil Company	Gulf Station Canopies

ACTION: Issue permit for two service island canopies with grey enamelled panel exterior trim. Ceiling lights shall shine down only and shall not transmit light horizontally.

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER THE OLD GEORGETOWN BOARD

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
O.G. 83-17	3327 M Street, N.W. Alvin Himmelfarb	New three story commercial structure.

ACTION: No objection to demolition of existing service station building since it does not contribute to the historic district. Concept and general massing of proposed new structure are approved subject to design development and approval of details by Georgetown Board. Additional study of first floor commercial areas, east party-wall entry area and possible elimination of brick quoining recommended.

O.G. 83-20	1737 34th Street, N.W. Donald W. Savelson	Addition of chimney and renovations to residence.

ACTION: Issue permit for addition of brick chimney and renovations to existing residence as shown on plans received and dated 22 November 1982. Material of new chimney will match existing building.

O.G. 83-23	3110 M Street, N.W. Canal Square	New signs, canopies and renovations.

ACTION: No objection to renovations as shown on drawings received and dated 22 November 1982. Recommend against flood-lighting M Street facade and M Street awning brackets. This action omits reference to the towpath elements as they are not within the jurisdiction of the D.C. Government, but will be submitted separately by the National Park Service.

O.G. 83-24	2911 Olive Street, N.W. Martin Kaplan	Addition to third floor

ACTION: No objection to preliminary designs; subject to compliance with District of Columbia code, fire, and zoning regulations.

O.G. 83-25 1258 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. Store front alterations
Marvin Fabrikant

ACTION: No objection to concept of alterations proposed on drawings, subject to submission and approval of working drawings and details by the Commission of Fine Arts.

O.G. 83-26 3333 Prospect Street, N.W. Retaining Wall
Nadine Kolchinikoft

ACTION: Issue permit for new brick retaining wall. Request brick sample for review.

O.G. 82-27 1242 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. Awnings
ALLE of Washington, Inc.

ACTION: Issue permit for dark brown awnings. Brown is recommended to blend with the building's approved color scheme.

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

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MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

December 14, 1982

The meeting was convened at 10:00 a.m. in the Commission of Fine Arts offices at 708 Jackson Place, N. W., Washington, D. C.

Members present: Hon. J. Carter Brown, Chairman
Hon. Harold Burson
Hon. John S. Chase
Hon. Sondra G. Myers
Hon. Walter A. Netsch
Hon. Alan Novak
Hon. Edward D. Stone, Jr.

Staff present: Mr. Charles H. Atherton, Secretary
Mr. Donald B. Myer, Assistant Secretary
Mr. Jeffrey R. Carson
Mrs. Sue Kohler
Miss Paulie Sturtevant

National Capital Planning Commission staff present: Mr. George Evans

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Dates of next meetings, approved as: January 11, 1983 (tentative)
February 8, 1982

B. Minutes of November 10, 1982 meeting, approved.

C. Olympic Coin design hearings before House Subcommittee on Consumer Affairs and Coinage on December 1, 1982. The Secretary noted that the Chairman had testified at this hearing, called by Representative Annunzio of Illinois in response to criticism of the design of these coins. The Chairman said he hoped that the concern demonstrated by Congress would result in improvements in coin and medal design. The Secretary said a transcript of the Chairman's statement would be attached to these minutes. Exhibit A

D. Report on the Smithsonian Quadrangle landscape design. The Chairman reviewed the decision at the November meeting to defer final approval of this aspect of the Quadrangle design until Mr. Stone had had a chance to see it. He said Mr. Stone had now been able to do this and asked him to make a report. Mr. Stone said he had met with the architect, Jean-Paul Carlhian, in Boston and reviewed all the drawings, which were already in the contract document stage. He said he expressed his concern and disappointment to Mr. Carlhian that the "three room" approach had not been pursued further. Mr. Carlhian replied that Secretary Ripley wanted to be sure the entire facade of the Castle would be visible at one time and so had preferred an "oriental carpet" type of layout with low design elements and plantings placed over the whold area. Mr. Stone said his feeling was that the various ornamental elements were simply put down onto the "carpet"; he thought they needed to be placed within well-defined spaces related to the various buildings in the Quadrangle. Mr. Netsch agreed, likening the design to "pendants hanging from a necklace." Mr. Stone added, however, that the individual elements were all handsome and very well detailed. He suggested that since the design had already been carried into the working drawing stage and was what Secretary Ripley preferred, the Commission might want to approve it, with regret, and recommend that some larger trees be introduced to give at least some degree of cohesion. The Chairman said a detailed tree schedule could also be requested. Mr. Netsch commented that keeping the vista open to the Castle did not imply that the area around it had to be denuded; he noted that Victorian landscape design, including Downing's design for the Mall, was characterized by the use of carefully placed mature trees.

As the action on the landscaping was deferred from the November meeting, Mr. Novak moved that the Commission now approve the gardens, subject to Mr. Stone's request for the use of larger trees and Mr. Netsch's comments on the nature of the vista. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. Exhibit B

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS

A. CFA 14/DEC/82-1, Department of the Interior, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, site plan designs. This submission was withdrawn from the agenda by the Interior Department.

B. CFA 14/DEC/82-2, Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation, flagpoles for Western Plaza. The Assistant Secretary introduced James Rich, newly-appointed director for development at PADC, and architect Ron Eichner. Mr. Eichner pointed out the proposed location of the flagpoles on a drawing. They would be in the southern portion of the

western end of the plaza, near the staircase, where they would relate to the District Building across the street. They would not interfere with the main White House-Capitol vista, nor would they frame it, as the original pylons had. Mr. Eichner was asked about the material and dimensions of the poles. He said they would be of cast aluminum, to match the other decorative elements on the plaza. The height would be 75 feet with a 5 foot diameter base; the pole would taper from 16 inches at the base to 8 inches at the top. Mr. Stone asked how the height was determined; he thought the poles might be so high people would not be aware of them as they walked through the plaza. Mr. Eichner said they had considered this, but did not think 75 feet was excessive. He said the height had been determined by the District Building (100 feet high) to which the flagpoles would relate. Both Mr. Novak and Mr. Netsch asked what else was planned for Western Plaza and whether there was a master plan. Mr. Netsch asked additionally if there would be any reconsideration of erecting the pylons. Mr. Rich said they were too expensive and were not being considered. Mr. Eichner said the only elements on the plaza would be the models of the White House and Capitol. Mr. Rich added that PADC considered the design of the flagpoles to be compatible with the models, the rest of the plaza, and the District Building.

While there were no objections to the use of flagpoles, Mr. Netsch thought the presentation was very incomplete and said it was important to see a master plan and understand the relationship of all the elements rather than approving items in a piecemeal fashion. Mr. Novak agreed. The Chairman was concerned about the bulbous design of the base of the poles and asked if, in a full scale detailed drawing,this section could be made more graceful. It was unanimously agreed that approval should be deferred until the master plan could be seen and a full presentation made. Exhibit C

C. CFA 14/DEC/82-3, District of Columbia Government, Department of Housing and Community Development, Redevelopment Land Agency, new office building, 4th and Virginia Avenue, S. W., additional facade studies (ref. CFA 10/NOV/82-8). The Assistant Secretary introduced Stan Sherman from the D. C. Government, who in turn introduced Joseph Harris, from the firm of Clark, Tribble, Harris and Li, to discuss his firm's response to the recommendations made at the November meeting. Mr. Harris reviewed the basis for the design of the building, its relation to the Design Center and surrounding area, and then showed drawings of both the old and new schemes for the upper floors. The original "glass box" had been replaced by alternating bands of brick and glass, and the problem of visual support at the corner had been lessened by continuing the brick banding all the way around. The

penthouse, too, no longer seemed so unrelated because it had picked up some details used on the base, and its brick material was now used on the central section of the building. The members, as well as the architect, considered the design much improved and it was unanimously approved. Exhibit D

D. District of Columbia Government, Department of Housing and Community Development

1. Shipstead-Luce Act

a. S. L. 83-18, 15th and New York Avenue, N. W., NS&T Bank, renovation and new scheme for addition. Staff member Jeffrey Carson reviewed the previous submission for a rooftop addition to this landmark structure. He said plans had now changed and there would be a full building addition to the east instead. He introduced architect A. H. Jeffries from the firm of Weihe, Black, Jeffries, Strassman and Dove to discuss the new design. Mr. Jeffries said the new building, to be dovetailed into the old, would contain 100,000 square feet of space and have a street frontage of 75 feet. The main section would match the old in height, and behind it would rise a three-story and penthouse "tower", overlapping part of the old building. In style all the new work would replicate the old, with minor deviations. Mr. Jeffries noted that there had been two additions to the building along New York Avenue, in 1916 and 1925, both in the style of the original building. After looking at the drawings, the members all thought the "tower" should be more contemporary in design rather than attempting to mimic the old building. The Chairman had doubts about continuing the old design even along the street frontage, commenting that there is a limit as to how far a design can be extended without losing effectiveness, especially without a strong element at the end. Mr. Netsch did not object to the use of the old style below the tower, but thought that whatever was done should be low-key, since it was not to be the main entrance to the bank. Mr. Jeffries was asked to restudy the facades as recommended; the design was unanimously disapproved.

b. S. L. 83-21, 606 18th Street, N. W., Bacon House renovation. The Assistant Secretary located this historic house, across 18th Street from the recent Michler Place development, adjacent to the new OAS building on 19th Street, and one block from the Octagon House. He introduced Dr. Richard Howland, speaking for Ambassador Lucius Battle, president of the Bacon House Foundation. Dr. Howland explained that the upper floors of the house, and the outbuildings, would be remodeled for office use, while the main floor of the house would be restored and would accommodate meetings and

social functions. The exterior alterations to the outbuildings, which constituted this submission, would include two dormer windows in the carriage house, three mini-dormers behind a stepped garage wall on 18th Street, and new fixed, glass and panel garage doors. The architect for the project was J. L. Sibley Jennings, Jr. There were no objections and the alterations were unanimously approved.

c. Appendix 1, approved.

2. Old Georgetown Act

a. O.G. 83-22, 1025 Thomas Jefferson Street, N. W., office/retail revised designs for previously approved project. (Mr. Netsch excused himself because of his previous association with the architects; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill.) The Assistant Secretary explained that subsequent to the Commission's final approval, changes had been made to reduce the cost of this project; the Georgetown Board saw these change on 7 December and approved them. He introduced architect David Childs to explain what had been done. Mr. Childs showed both old and new drawings and pointed out that the principal changes were the removal of the prominent chimneys and the use of square rather than round columns on the ground floor. On the south elevation there had been some changes to the truck dock and other openings, and on 30th Street, one balcony had been removed. There were no objections to these specific changes, although the Chairman noted that the building had been revised a number of times and the Commission would not want to see further changes. The revised designs were unanimously approved.

b. Appendix 2, approved.

E. CFA 14/DEC/82-4, Department of the Army, Institute of Heraldry; Commander's Medal for Public Service. Staff member Sue Kohler showed the members a color rendering of this bronze medal, explaining that the equilateral triangle on the obverse represented civilians and the eagle, Federal service. On the reverse was the name of the medal and a space for the recipient's name. There were no objections and the medal was unanimously approved. Exhibit E

F. CFA 14/DEC/82-5, Department of the Treasury, Bureau of the Mint; models for 1983 silver dollar commemorating 1984 Summer Olympics. Mrs. Kohler introduced Elizabeth Jones, Francis Frere, and George Schafer from the Mint. Ms. Jones showed the members plaster models of the obverse and reverse of the 1983 silver dollar. The members discussed with her some mimor changes in the placement of the discus

thrower, Olympic symbols, and inscriptions on the obverse (previously approved). They agreed that the eagle on the reverse had gained stability from the slight change made after the November meeting recommendation and gave it their unanimous approval. Exhibit F

G. CFA 14/DEC/82-6, District of Columbia Government, Department of General Services; D. C. General Hospital addition. The Assistant Secretary introduced Mr. Pavlick and Mr. Brooks from the District Government. Mr. Brooks said the architects for the project were H. D. R. and Baker-Cooper Associates; he then introduced Isham Baker, project architect. Mr. Baker said the proposed new facility would be an ambulatory and critical care center and would be related to the main hospital building, a structure built in stages from 1927-70. However, he said this building may be demolished at some point, or at least no longer be the main hospital, so the new facility was planned with that in mind also. He introduced Joseph Parimucha from H. D. R. to discuss the program and siting. Slides were shown of the site; Mr. Parimucha noted that it was near the recently demolished old jail, and pointed out old walls and driveways that would be removed to improve the general appearance of the area. He discussed the floor plans of the three-story building and said the diagonal orientation had resulted from window requirements for the various suites and their relationship to the nursing stations. In style and material the new wing would relate primarily to the recently constructed women's wing. The elevations were simple, with punched rectangular windows and narrow, horizontal strip windows. The connecting links to the main building would be glass and stucco, to relate to the use of stucco on other connectors in the complex. Mr. Netsch and Mr. Stone thought this recall unnecessary and suggested that a glass and metal tube would be more suited to the function. Mr. Netsch observed that the building had a very complicated role to play, and he thought the quiet facade a good choice. He said he regretted there was no master plan to review, but Mr. Baker told him one was being prepared. Mr. Stone suggested that some planting and street furniture would help the appearance of the hospital complex and the neighborhood. There were no further comments and the preliminary design was unanimously approved.
Exhibit G

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Signed,

Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

EXHIBIT A

OVERSIGHT ON 1984 OLYMPIC COMMEMORATIVE COIN DESIGNS

HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND COINAGE

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON
BANKING, FINANCE AND URBAN AFFAIRS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-SEVENTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

DECEMBER 1, 1982

Serial No. 97-98

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Would you proceed in your own manner, Mr. Brown?

STATEMENT OF J. CARTER BROWN, CHAIRMAN, COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

Mr. BROWN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I take very much to heart your words about working together, because the Commission of Fine Arts is appointed to advise the Congress and the President on matters affecting art, architecture, and design, specifically the U.S. Treasury on its coins as a result of an Executive order of 1921; so that we have always been ready to advise to the maximum extent.

I have a deep personal interest in this since under another hat, as Director of the National Gallery of Art, I am the one responsible for one of the three greatest collections of medals in the world by general consent, ranking only with the National Museum in Italy, in Florence, and the collection of the museum in London.

It is very inspiring to see the heights to which design and low relief in a small format can aspire, and we feel strongly that the United States of America deserves nothing less.

We have been procedurally in a difficult time bind here, and hindsight is 20/20, of course, but it would have been a great deal easier and more productive perhaps if we, too, had been consulted on preliminary sketch ideas earlier than it turned out that we were.

As it happened, the Commission met, and a press conference was held and already scheduled for the next day to announce the designs, sort of presenting us with a pistol at our head, a fait accompli, which I guess was a take-it-or-leave-it; we-are-going-ahead thing. That was unfortunate, which I am convinced was not entirely intentional.

It was bad luck that the designs were submitted right after a meeting, and we did not have another one for a month. On the other hand, we would like to offer our services to the Treasury on any schedule that they like. We often do this with architects, where there are time pressures on large construction projects, and we can poll the committee to get preliminary reactions. We can, if necessary, have special meetings or delegation of comment, various ways in which we don't have to wait for the next stated meeting.

It also occurs to me that the responsibility has obviously been delegated to the Secretary of the Treasury, but there is nothing in the legislation, as I read it, that prohibits the Secretary from getting some preliminary feedback from the Fine Arts Commission, before he has made his final decision.

There is no reason why the staff at the mint or the Treasury could not simply have brought us in, even in an unofficial way, before the Secretary's signoff so we would not have felt, when we first saw them, that the designs already had an immutable aspect.

The picture is not as bleak as one might think in that we have approved four of the six sides of the three coins that we are dealing with, and, as you pointed out, Mr. Chairman, the first coin has received our approval. We have some reservations perhaps about it, but I think that that is really not at issue.

We have in the reverse of the 1984 silver dollar coin, I think, a very beautiful eagle. I think that that is an extraordinarily fine piece of design. It is by a sculptor who has a fine reputation as an artist, and is, I think, a very handsome design.

Unfortunately, Mr. Chairman, my experience in many years serving on the stamp advisory committee is to have seen what happens when an artist who is not familiar with the specifics of dealing with a very difficult medium, as a stamp format is, the difficulties that artists get into if they have not been that experienced in what happens when you reduce a design and when you have to make it producible by the technology either of stamp or of a coin.

What has happened, it seems to me, with the obverse of the second coin, the 1984 silver dollar, is that too much got crammed into too little, and you lost legibility, and you just can't tell what on earth that thing is trying to be.

If it were blown up on a big screen, you would probably say, there is a coliseum, and there is a sculptured archway, and whether you like it or not, you could understand what it was trying to be.

So, we have a real problem simply of visual communication here, and I think it is solvable within my lay definition of the normal designs process as it evolves, whether for buildings or stamps, or coins. It is perfectly natural for there to be an evolution, and I am very hopeful we will be able to come to approval when we see them by submission.

On the final gold one, in many ways, it being the most expensive, it should be the best, and I think the general consensus is that it is the least good. There are problems there with those two running figures who seem to be tripping over the lettering and tortuously dealing with several hula hoops at once. Again, it is a question of cramming too much visual information into too small a format.

Our experience is, if one can pare those elements down, one gets the increased impact at the small scale, and our suggestion is, if one could have that beautiful Olympic symbol, which is world renowned, and is one of the great graphic logos, combined with the torch, which is an American symbol of freedom, that one would not have to get into all the literalness of our two runners, which brings ethnic questions into play. Whatever you do to define those two runners, you will leave out a lot of our American athletes.

I feel that that is buying more trouble than you need. Why shouldn't the design be greatly simplified, and if it were, it could be done, so it seems to me, within the guidelines of an evolving design, and, as the chairman has so rightly pointed out, we have time here. I think it can be worked out.

Thank you.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. Mrs. Clain-Stefanelli.

STATEMENT OF ELVIRA CLAIN-STEFANELLI, CURATOR, NUMISMATIC DIVISION, SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mrs. CLAIN-STEFANELLI. I would like to be brief in my remarks by giving a few elements about my experience in medals. I am the Curator of Numismatics at the Smithsonian and in my charge is also the medal collection.

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

EXHIBIT B

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

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CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066

January 4, 1983

Dear Dillon:

As a result of the Commission's discussions on the landscape plans for the South Quadrangle project on November 10, 1982, a special meeting between the architect, Mr. Carlhian, and our landscape member, Mr. Stone, was held in Boston. We discussed the matter further at our meeting on December 14, 1982.

As you know the Commission has been concerned about the lack of definition between the gardens on the east and west sides of the central walkway, and in particular what seemed to us, a missed opportunity in the design of the garden next to the far-east pavilion.

Although we had no new drawings to view, Mr. Stone reported that the architect is studying the introduction of trees along the north-south walkway, an addition to the scheme we feel will improve the design considerably. The Commission recognizes that there have been in the past comments by others on the design that have led the architect to try to open up the view of the south side of the Castle building from Independence Avenue. In our opinion this can be overdone and, in fact, was on the verge of being so. Many of the buildings along the mall are seen through canopies of trees of varying densities, and a Victorian building such as the Castle can be enhanced by such planting. The Commission strongly recommends that the structural specifications of the underground structure call for sufficient strength and soil of sufficient depth to provide for some substantial tree growth in the future, even though such plantings may not be visualized for the initial landscape plan.

As to the details of the garden to the west of the central walk, Mr. Stone reported they were being developed with great care and refinement. While this is reassuring, I believe it is necessary to say that Mr. Stone in particular as well as the other members of the Commission were not overly enthusiastic about the present design. However, if there can be some assurance that the subsurface structure is not so limiting as to preclude some different

design in the future, the Commission would be willing to withhold any further objection and recommend the project proceed along the lines we have already seen.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. S. Dillon Ripley, Secretary
The Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D. C. 20560

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CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

EXHIBIT C

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066

January 4, 1983

Dear Tom:

Just a note to confirm our discussions on December 14 with Mr. James Rich of your staff regarding the addition of flagpoles on Western Plaza. We have no specific objections to the idea; in fact the Commission has recognized the need for vertical elements on the Plaza and has endorsed the idea on previous occasions. However, we were reluctant to approve the designs presented until we could see the flagpoles depicted in the larger context of the entire plaza. I believe a couple of photos looking both directions on the avenue and overlaid with the proposed design would also be most helpful.

In the meantime, we would also recommend that additional study be given to the base of the poles. They appeared to be too bulbous or distorted with insufficient articulation. No one thought it was a very pleasing shape, especially if it were to be rendered in metal. The latter, a grey metal matching the urns, would appear to pose no problems. We will be happy to review additional material at our next meeting tentatively scheduled for January 20, 1983.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Tom Regan
Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation
425 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

EXHIBIT D

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066

January 4, 1983

Dear Ms. Petty:

The Commission met with Mr. Sherman of RLA and the designers of the proposed new office building at 4th and Virginia Avenue, S.W. during our December 14, 1982 meeting. We are pleased with the response to our November 10 suggestions for restudy of the façades. The revised design is approved with the recommendation that final design development drawings, and/or working drawings be submitted to the Commission for approval. This step will be necessary to ensure that the detailing of the new scheme, shown only in sketch form, conforms to the general design approved by the Commission.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Ms. Madeline M. Petty
Acting Director
Department of Housing and Community Development
1133 North Capitol Street, N.E., Suite 270
Washington, D.C. 20002

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman
HAROLD BURSON — WALTER A. NETSCH
JOHN S. CHASE — ALAN R. NOVAK
SONDRA G. MYERS — EDWARD D. STONE, JR.
CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

Exhibit E

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066

January 4, 1983

Dear Colonel Allen:

The Commission of Fine Arts met on December 14, 1982 and reviewed designs for the Department of the Army Commander's Award for Public Service. We are happy to tell you that the medal was approved.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Colonel Richard H. Allen, GS
Director, The Institute of Heraldry
Department of the Army
Cameron Station
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

EXHIBIT F

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066

January 4, 1983

Dear Mr. Frere:

The Commission was happy to meet with you and Ms. Elizabeth Jones on December 14, 1982 to review plaster models for the 1983 One Dollar Olympic Coin.

The members and Ms. Jones discussed some minor changes to be made to the obverse, previously approved. The eagle on the reverse, revised according to recommendations made at the November 10, 1982 meeting, was considered improved and was given the Commission's approval.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Francis B. Frere
Assistant Director of the Mint for Marketing
Department of the Treasury
Bureau of the Mint
Washington, D.C. 20220

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman
HAROLD BURSON — WALTER A. NETSCH
JOHN S. CHASE — ALAN R. NOVAK
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CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

EXHIBIT G

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066

January 4, 1983

Dear Mr. Pavlick:

The Commission appreciated the opportunity to review the preliminary plans for the new Ambulatory and Critical Care Center at the District of Columbia General Hospital complex at our meeting on December 14, 1982. Since the plans were largely schematic in character, we will have to reserve our final action until more detailed plans are submitted, but at this point, the Commission sees no obstacle in gaining approval for the project.

We would of course like to see material samples along with the working drawings, and more importantly, a comprehensive landscape scheme. We understand from remarks made at the presentation that such a plan is now being prepared for the entire hospital complex, which is most gratifying to learn. The environment at the hospital site is not particularly attractive, and a good landscape scheme for the area would go a long way toward ameliorating the situation. Now that the old jail is gone is a perfect opportunity to take this step.

We look forward to seeing the additional material whenever it is ready.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Charles R. Pavlick
Architect-Engineer Liaison Officer
Department of General Services
613 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001